

REMARKS

Claims 27-47 stand allowed. Claims 7, 11, 13-18 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, and 19-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 6,169,830 by Kewitsch et al. ("Kewitsch").

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 7, 8, 14, and 23-26 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner stated that claim 7 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1, as amended, includes the limitations of claim 7. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, overcomes the above objection. Given that claims 2-6, 11, and 14-22 depend upon and include the limitations in claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6, 11, and 14-22 also overcome the above rejection.

The Examiner stated that claim 14 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 9, as amended, includes the limitations of claim 14. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 9, as amended, overcomes the above objection. Given that claims 10, 12, and 13 depend upon and include the limitations in claim 9, applicant respectfully submits that claims 10, 12, and 13 also overcome the above rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the application of the doctrine equivalents. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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